

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Final Office Action dated December 23, 2009, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on March 23, 2010. Claims 1-8, 11-14, and 17-32 remain pending in the application and are shown above. Claims 1-8, 11, 12, 14, 17, 18, 20, and 23-32 are rejected, claims 13 and 19 are objected to, and claims 21 and 22 are indicated to be allowable by the Examiner. Reconsideration of the rejected claims is requested for reasons presented below.

Claim Objections

Claim 20 is objected to. Applicant has amended claim 20 as suggested by the Examiner. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 8, 11, and 23-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Edwards* (U.S. 5,938,325).

Claims 1, 8, 12, and 25-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Khan, et al.* (U.S. 5,482,367).

Claims 1, 2, 6-8, 14, and 25-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Ryntveit, et al.* (U.S. 5,247,970).

The Examiner indicates that claims 13 and 19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Independent claims 1 and 2 have been amended to include the elements of claims 13 and 19, respectively. Applicant therefore respectfully requests withdrawal of 102 rejections and allowance of independent claims 1 and 2 and claims dependent therefrom.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 3-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Ryntveit* in view of *Minami* (U.S. 5,795,550).

Claims 11 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Ryntveit*.

Claims 3-5, 11, and 17 depend from at least one of claims 1 and 2. Claims 3-5, 11, and 17 are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as claims 1 and 2 stated above. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of 103 rejections and allowance of claims 3-5, 11, and 17.

Conclusion

Having addressed all issues set out in the Final Office Action, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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